

DEREK SEATON DISPLAY TO BWISC AT PHILATEX



This letter left Kings (an office which was opened in 1875) on 23 June 1876 and arrived in London on 17 July

Up until 1857 this number had been allocated to Pocklington, Yorkshire but by 1874 it was vacant and had become available for use again at another office. In the 1887 list, the number 622 was given to Kings whereas Pocklington now had H30.

On 1 April 1863 new letter rates to UK were introduced, namely, 1/- per ½ oz by packet and 3d per ½ oz by private ship, whereas previously the rate had been 6d per ½ oz by either means.



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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTS

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
- 2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
- 3 TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways.
- 4 TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
- 5 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in paragraph 1 above.

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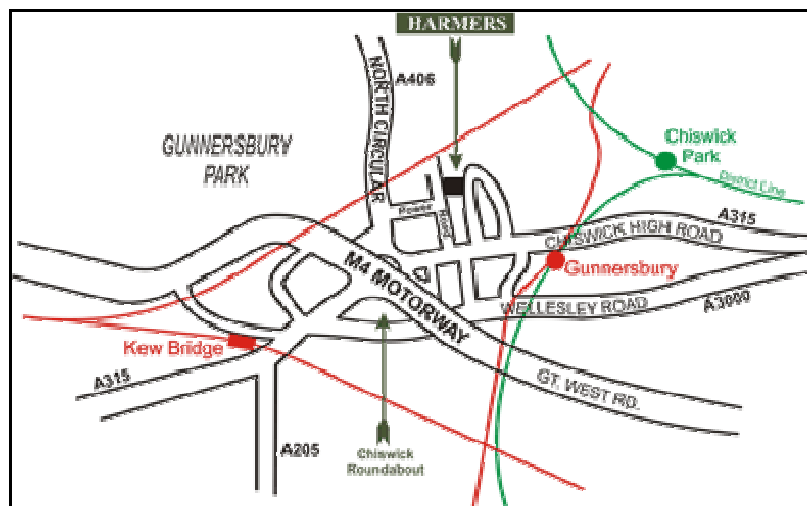
Charles Freeland is displaying a West Indies Miscellany at The Royal Philatelic Society, London on 15 March 2007 with 40 odd frames on different topics.

Any non-members who wish to attend need to notify Charles in advance so that arrangements for guest sign-in can be organised.

BWISC AGM & AUCTION 2007

... will be held at Harmers Auctions premises on Saturday 28 April 2007.

Viewing commences at 13:15, the AGM commences at 14:15 to be followed by the auction.

**Harmers Auctions:**

No. 11, 111 Power Road,
Chiswick, London, W4 5PY

Underground: Gunnersbury
(5 minute walk) on the District Line
or Chiswick Park.

Rail: Kew Bridge, First Great
Western from Clapham Junction
six stops.

Road: M25 to M4, Junction 2,
North Circular A406 to Chiswick.

BWISC CONVENTION 2007

21/22 September 2007 to be held at the Corus Hotel, Honiley, near Warwick.

- James Podger & Kevin Darcy – Cayman Islands – 'Once Upon A Time'
- Simon Kelly – Bahamas, Selected Stamps and Postal History

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The New Year has come and gone and we in the BWISC have a lot to look forward to this year. With the UK economy seemingly doing well and the US dollar exchange rate at an advantageous level (at least for those living in the UK), the stamp market is booming with auction realisations more often than not being exceeded, sometimes by vast amounts. Some recent sales have realised millions, literally. To give you an example of the state of the market, Gibbons purchased Lot 1741 and Lot 1750 in the October Jaffe BWI sale for £2,100 and £1,600 respectively. They are now on sale at £5,500 and £5,000 online. Even taking buyers' premium & VAT into consideration, this shows a healthy profit. I have no complaint about this — after all, they have to make a living — but it does show the health of the market and what they, Gibbons, believe collectors (or investors) are willing to pay for such material.

We have our AGM and Annual Auction at the end of April; it is to be held this year at Harmers auction rooms near Gunnersbury Underground Station. Whilst I do not expect our realisations to be in the millions, I do expect them to be a major contributor to our funds, as they usually are. Our auctioneer informs me that he has some 730 or so lots and anticipates some lively bidding in the room. I would encourage those of you within striking distance of London to attend. I realise that the venue may not be ideal, but we have to take advantage of the generosity shown by auction houses in allowing us to hold our auction in their premises as this does save us a lot of money. Some of you may be put off by the AGM preceding the auction; do not be, members present are always in such a hurry to get to grips with the auction delights on display that the AGM is quite often a formality. There may be some members who feel reticent about placing postal bids; but as some postal buyers will tell you, our auctioneers are scrupulous in their handling of postal bids. Remember that, except for postage costs, you will not have to pay any more than the amount you bid for any particular lot. The 10% that the Study Circle earn is paid by the vendor.

Later in the year we are holding our BWISC Convention at the Corus Hotel Honiley. It seems that each time we hold these Conventions I am encouraging members to come along to savour the occasion. I can assure those of you who have never attended, that you are missing out on a unique event; we have two fine displays on offer this year. James Podger and Kevin Darcy will show their Cayman Islands and Simon Kelly will display his Bahamas. Even if these two Colonies are not in your area of interest, I am sure that if you come along you will be captivated by the material on display. If you live close enough, just come along on the Saturday and spend as much or as little time with us as you can.

In approximately 3 years the LONDON 2010 show will take place. Normally, the BWISC try to mark the occasion with special displays and a social event. Your Committee will be discussing our plans for that year in the coming months. If any members have new ideas as to how we can celebrate the event, please let us know. All suggestions will be welcome and will be given careful consideration.

Whilst on the subject of LONDON 2010, it is my intention to enter our Bulletin into the Literature section of the exhibits at that Show. I feel that the advances in the quality of the Bulletin made by our Editor should be recognised by an appropriate award. No doubt the issues involved would encompass the whole of 2009; so all you budding authors out there, get your pens sharpened and let us have some stunning articles of original research.

MESSAGE FROM THE WEB MASTER

Over the last few months there have been a number of instances where our web site and e-mail have encountered technical problems, with complete loss of service for over 24 hours. As a result, we have decided to change our service provider. If everything goes to plan, this change should be completed by the time you receive the Bulletin. However, we may have difficulties transferring the domain www.bwisc.org to the new service provider. If this happens, I will create an alternative domain of www.bwisc.org.uk.

Stewart Jessop, 1936–2006

Alfred Stewart Jessop (always Stewart; 'Alfred' was a well-kept secret!) was born in 1936 and died on 6 October last year. He was a very quiet and private individual, although in recent years he had started to write on postal history matters when he approached me with the idea of publishing his study of Bermuda World War One Censorship; this was published only last year (British West Indies Study Circle Study Paper No. 1).

In the early days he principally collected Bermuda keyplates, but found that the law of diminishing returns set in and in consequence turned to Postal History. He did maintain collections of some other colonies. It seems that he concentrated his purchases; he spent 'real' money with a very small group of dealers, and went round quietly profiting from the mistakes of the others!

Stewart worked as a retail manager for W.H. Smith Ltd both in Carlisle and the Midlands and latterly lived modestly near Walsall. He retired in 1990 and his friends agree that he was something of a loner. He had suffered from bronchitis for all the years they had known him, but apparently was very reluctant to take his medicine, or indeed to look after himself properly. He never married. His health was not up to National Service, but he was very much involved with the Boy Scout movement for many years. He had plenty of time to research matters Bermudan; file after file of photocopied information lined the walls of his stamp room. It is a shame that he did not manage to set more down on paper, but he had no reason to suspect that he would be struck down by illness at the start of this year; he must have supposed that he would have considerable time remaining to him to set down on paper what he knew. Although I knew he was still seriously unwell, his death was a shock; we will all miss him.

Peter Ford

The Bob Parsons collection of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co

will form my next auction to be held in April.

This award winning collection includes many fine covers with manuscript Solent and a Cobequid wreck cover and Trinidad Coastal Steamer cancels. There are covers from most Caribbean islands as well as South and Central America.

The full sale will be available for viewing on my website nearer the time.

New book in stock:-

Chris Miller 'British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II.

Canada and the Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America.

1st ed., 2006. 300 large pp (approx). Card covers with spiral ring binding.

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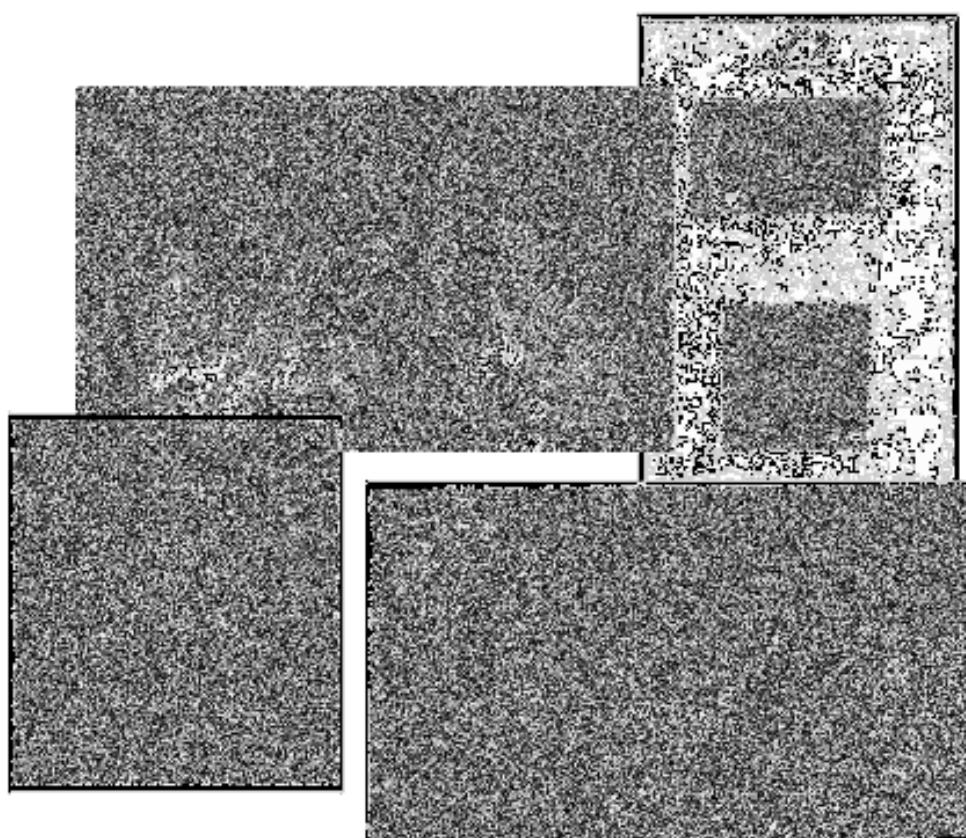


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BWISC MEETING AT PHILATEX OCTOBER 2006

Peter Ford opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking Chris Rainey & Trevor Davis for generously providing the use of the room. He then explained that he expected meetings to be held here, in alternate years to the Convention.

The entertainment was to be provided by two speakers who had both travelled a fair distance, Alan Rigby from Lancashire and Derek Seaton from Devon. Alan's attendance had been in some doubt due to poor health but Peter was pleased that he had been able to undertake the expedition.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS GEORGE VI ISSUE

BY ALAN RIGBY

[Editor's note: The following is an edited transcription of a recording taken at the display hence the use of the first person].

Well gentlemen, thank you very much indeed for inviting me to display my St. Kitts-Nevis. This is a small part of my huge St. Kitts-Nevis collection. I have a St. Christopher collection, a 1903 through to 1929 collection, and this is the George VI small and large format stamps.

I have exhibited George VI in London at Stampex twice and was fortunate enough to be asked to take it to Washington recently, where it got a Vermeil medal. I felt very proud representing the UK, representing Bolton, and representing the British West Indies Study Circle.

I was very fortunate with two people that I met. One, Ronnie Bickerstaff, who none of you know. He started to collect St. Kitts and Nevis in 1980 when the two islands became totally independent again. He started me stamp collecting again, in my thirties. My children called him Uncle Ronnie. We went away on holiday some 20 years ago and when we came back, he'd passed away.

I disposed of his collection, but asked his widow if I could carry on with the St. Kitts-Nevis collection and she said 'by all means', and this is the result of it.

The other person that I met, which was even more fortunate for me, was Peter Baldwin, whose book I have here in my hand, which is the bible of this 1938 to 1950 issue.

The **small format** stamps at this end of the display are a nightmare to classify. Peter and I used many methods for the papers, the perforation patterns and the shades. I have used Peter's methods of description and identification for my display. The perforation patterns are pictured in the front part of the book. For the shades, I have used ultra-violet light, daylight light, and the Stanley Gibbons colour chart.

There are only 3 major constant flaws on the small format stamps. These can be seen, enlarged, on the penny – break in the frame, and the break in the frame above 'S' in Nevis and also on the ½d value – a break in the frame on the second stamp of the left pane.

This collection is virtually as complete as I can make it, based on the work that Peter and I had done. However, there is now another young man, Simon Smith from Sheffield, working on this issue, who has actually found two of what we think are constant flaws in the last 12 months.

Using covers, I have tried to illustrate the usage of each of the printings, many of them being censored covers, showing the civil censor device of St. Kitts-Nevis. Censor number three was only used in St. Kitts and that appears in several colours: red, vivid purple and black. Probably the purple one is the black mixed with red. I've tried to find different usages to different countries and covers that have gone to the UK and they say 'Examiner', and covers that have gone to the USA and they say 'Examined By', all of this is explained in my write-up.

The **large format** stamps have the most constant flaws. They are all listed in Peter's book. Peter used a battleship type grid with letters down the side and numbers across the top, just to position the flaws, and I've continued to use it in my display write-up.

There are a lot of flaws on the 2d, 3d and 6d lower values. These appear in the frame plates, and in the head plates (there are of course the two head plates: one with the medicinal springs that comes from the badge of Nevis; and one with the famous mistake of Christopher Columbus with his telescope to his eye about a hundred years before it was invented).

Starting with the **2d value**, we find them on both chalky and ordinary paper. The flaws go through all the different printings right up to 1950. Here are several blocks of six, all from the bottom left

corner of the sheet, showing the development of two flaws, including unrepaired and later on repaired states, and also a block from the very scarce 1943 printing.

The **3d values**, are again shown used on cover and with the censorship 'passed the censor' and the round censor sealing tape. There is one flaw around the value tablet but this is the only example that we've found up to now. It's such a big flaw I can't understand why it hasn't become constant and why it hasn't been found by anyone else.

I originally exhibited five frames at Stampex but after achieving the large award, I had to increase it to eight frames which was quite difficult, especially as I can't display full sheets, as they don't fit. However, I have displayed full sheets of the 1950 overprinted tercentenary of Anguilla by splitting the sheet in the middle, but I wouldn't split the scarcer items. My only disappointment is the lack of die proofs in my display. Peter, in his book, only refers to the die proofs that he's examined at the British Library but I've never ever seen one.

The 2nd half of the display consists of the **6d, 1s, 2s6d and 5s values** of the large format stamps, again showing the flaws in the head plate and the frame plate. This section also includes the 10s and £1 value which wasn't issued until 1948. I haven't come across anybody who has really studied those two values. One would imagine that they would come up with as many flaws as the other large format stamps – if someone got down to study them in as much detail as the rest of the issue has been studied by Peter and myself. The 6d is my particular favourite; I like the colours, the shades of the magenta colour, which need to be viewed on a black background in bright daylight.

The flaws are basically the same as those you saw on the lower values except there are also some visible to the naked eye, particularly on the 5s value. The 5s value is displayed here in some detail, showing what is known as the dagger flaw, a massive break in the frame; a break in the value tablet underneath the diagonal bar of the 5s; the same flaw on the 1s value; a break in the frame above the double 't' in Kitts; and a break in the frame to the left of the King's head.

Virtually all the examples that I have in blocks of 4 or 6 are marginal examples. This enables positioning using the jubilee lines because the little white marks in the jubilee lines, all the way round the printing of the sheet, are the same on every value.

The 1941 printings were sent direct to the island; there was no London release. They can be identified mainly by the 8 perforations that go down into the bottom margin, none of the other printings have so many perforations that go down into margin. There were only 110 sheets of the 5s value and this is the only recorded surviving cylinder block.

At this end of the display are the overprints for the Anguilla Tercentenary. There are two main flaws in the overprints – the bar on the 'G' is missing on one stamp and also the 'E' in Tercentenary is missing on another. The flaw that we see on the small format 1d stamps is apparent but it is almost under the overprint.

You will all have seen these presentation folders from the 1947 UPU conference in Paris. This of course is the St. Kitts presentation folder, Rod Vousden wrote an article in the London Philatelist on all these folders, how the stamps were prepared, and how many stamps there were, etc, etc. For St. Kitts-Nevis, there were only enough stamps to prepare half the folders and I think there were 150 folders needed, so a special printing had to be done, just for these folders. I've studied 6 or 7 of these folders and found most of the flaws that aren't apparent anywhere else, in all the constant flaws throughout the series from 1938 to 1950. So, these do identify another printing of the large format stamps and the small format stamps just to fill these folders.

A discussion followed on:

- the existence and usage of censorship number marks
- fugitive inks on the large format stamps (and the dangers of soaking off cover)

Peter Ford gave the vote of thanks.



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BWISC MEETING AT PHILATEX OCTOBER 2006

EARLY JAMAICA

BY DEREK SEATON

Derek introduced his display by explaining that he collected anything to do with the overseas activities of the GPO in London up until the end of the Victorian reign, so that a lot of early Jamaican material existed. However, he had only brought along a selection from 1858, as to show it all would take too long.

The first half of the display showed the stamps of Great Britain used in Jamaica. Derek explained that these adhesives were first used in the Crimea in 1854/55 but it soon caught on as a very suitable way of sending mail because within a year or two, Constantinople, Malta, Gibraltar, the West Indies all had GB adhesives for their own use.

Numeral cancellers were used in the BWI by several territories, including Jamaica, Antigua, British Guiana and British Honduras. However, Jamaica was the only BWI island that had more than two numeral cancellers. The obliterator for Kingston arrived in 1858 but those for the other postal towns, A27 to A78, didn't arrive until March 1859.

In Jamaica, the post offices commenced with obliterator type H and Derek illustrated these starting with packet mail. From May 1858 to January 1859, GB adhesives were available for restricted postage use, only on packet mail, but this restriction was then lifted and GB adhesives could be used freely (on internal and packet mail) until August 1860, when they were withdrawn.

Derek explained that so far, he had been able to collect examples, on cover or large piece, from 33 of the 53 post offices, and three of those remaining were probably never used (either the numbers were lost or misplaced or the Post Office closed – they often closed and reopened).

The second half of the display covered from the end of 1860 to the end of the century, when the tale becomes more complicated. In November 1862 many numeral obl iterators were withdrawn and were re-allocated slightly differently. Later, many new obl iterators were used, and some 'E', 'F' and 'G' numbers were actually granted. Many new offices opened, some moved to new sites and changed their names, others just changed their names without moving, so proper identification could be a challenge. One or two seemed to be closed frequently and then re-opened and Derek explained that he tried to keep track of these changes in the individual commentaries.

The use of the numeral cancellers went on for a long time – in some cases into the 20th century despite, from 1874, the UPU frowning upon the use of them. This was because they needed a code to find out where a letter had come from, and they preferred the name of the departing post office to be actually in the date stamp.

The display concluded with a fine selection of early temporary rubber date-stamps.

The vote of thanks was provided by Steve Jarvis.

On the next two pages Derek has provided a few examples of the covers shown to the meeting, and will provide a more comprehensive selection, which will be loaded to the gallery section of the BWISC web site in due course.

MEMBERS' WANTS

Item Ref	Description	Contact Details
AW001 3 Nov 2006	Jamaica Commercial Covers from Trelawny All periods but especially 1975-99 and obliterator covers with numbers A37, A38, A39, A70, A77, F81, G14 and B. Material especially required from: Alps, Daniel Town, Deeside, Dromilly, Glastonbury, Glenmore, Joe Hut, Kinloss, Lorrimers, Martha Brae, Old Mountain, Perth Town, Quickstep, Refuge, Reserve, Rio Bueno (pre 1960), Rock Spring, Salt Marsh, Sawyers, Stettin, Troy, Wilson's Run, Wire Fence.	Anthony Wilkinson 113 Short Heath Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6LH +44 (0)7813 071 066



Porus (A68) was a village of little note, about 45 miles from Kingston on the railway line that connected the capital with Montego Bay.

It is said that its name derived from the porous nature of the soil there.

This letter to Messrs. Barclay & McDowell left Porus on 30 December 1859 and arrived in Kingston the following day. The letter is concerning the Ale and Porter that had not been received despite the fact that it had been ordered two weeks previously, the writer attributing this to the neglect of the captain of the 'Drefus', and complaining that it was inconvenient to go to the wharf and to find nothing there.



Salt Gut (A74) although it no longer exists, was a small port on the north coast near, and overshadowed by, Ocho Rios. It had the same postmaster from 1841 till 1870 but the office closed in 1893 on account of the small amount of business being transacted.

Unfortunately not all of this letter is decipherable, but the writer was in high dudgeon -- 'have been landed and I am perfectly astonished that you or any respectable firm should even think of shipping such an article' and 'and await your instructions as to what I am to do with it' are excerpts from the letter showing his displeasure.



Although this obliterator was sent to Jamaica at the same time as the others, it is never seen on a GB adhesive as it was not allocated till 1863, long after GB stamps had been withdrawn. In addition the format of the obliterator has been slightly changed in that the surrounding bars are considerably thicker.

This letter to Wisconsin left Richmond on 14 August 1878, transited Kingston the following day and New York on 22 August. On the reverse there is a circular 'PAID ALL', and also a note to say that it was answered on September 27.



peter singer

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CANCELLATIONS & METER MARK

BY NIGEL R J NEIL

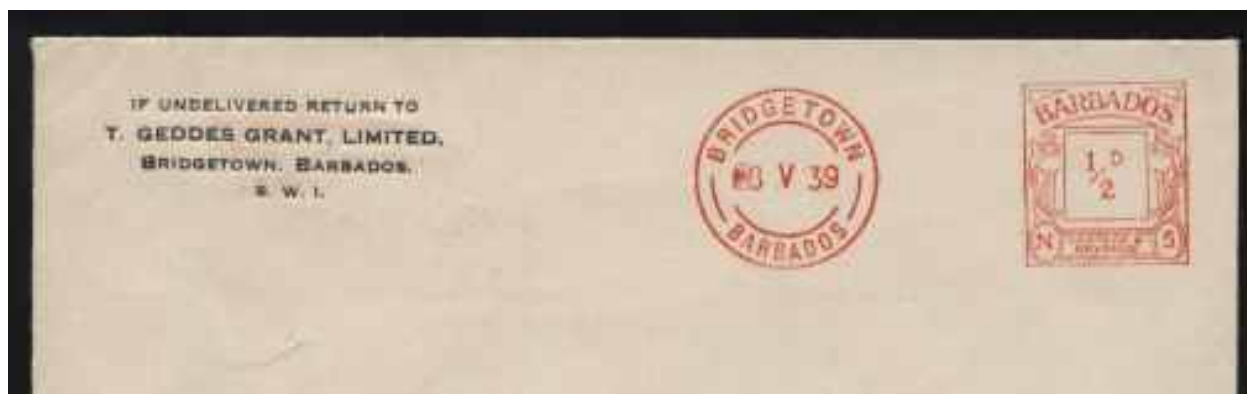
I would very much like comments from any fellow collectors about three items, all of which have been in my collection for over 20 years.



- 1 1875-78 4d deep red Britannia, perf 12½, SG68, hand-stamped STEAMER in blue (24mm x 3.5mm).
- 2 6d chrome-yellow Britannia, perf 14, SG79, with what appears to be a personalised cancellation, comprising 'W H Austin' (16x2mm) in a garter (22x13mm).

Both items appear also to have 'open bootheel' cancels, which would put them post-1887, according to Clarke *et al* (1982).

- 3 The third item is a 1939 (8 May or is it 18 May) ½d metre mark in red, on an unaddressed but sealed envelope, inscribed T. Geddes Grant, Bridgetown. I know very little about metre marks, but have not seen a Barbados example as early as this, and wonder whether it is a trial of some kind. Can anyone please supply the earliest date for a commercially used Barbados metre mark, from T. Geddes Grant and otherwise?



A useful article on the web (see below), discusses the founder of the import/export company, but actually tells very little about the business, now part of the Neal and Massy Group of Companies. Thomas' son Fred Grant, OBE, took over the firm after his father's death, and the Barbados office seems to have been opened sometime between 1917 and 1931. The head office was in Trinidad, and a Jamaica office was opened in 1920. The Bridgetown office was burnt down in 1938, and the article says that it was not rebuilt until 1940, so I wonder where this places my metre mark?

Article on the www:

- 'Thomas Geddes Grant (1866–1934): from grandfather to grandson; 100 years of T. Geddes Grant Ltd', in *Newsday Historical Digest*, 25 Feb 2001, after a text by Sir K. Lindsay Grant (<http://www.nalis.gov.tt/Biography/ThomasGeddesGrant.htm>).

BARBADOS**ST. LAWRENCE S.O.****BY DAVID HORRY**

I feel Keith Bayley's response to my contribution to Fitz Roett's article requires some comment.

[Bulletins: 208/p14 March 2006; 209/p11 June 2006; 211/p6 Dec 2006].

I can confirm that 'ERD' means Earliest Recorded Date and 'LRD' Latest Recorded Date, the key word being 'Recorded'. It is often only through the provision of information and being prepared to be contradicted, that our data is enhanced. The provision of this information into the public arena by Keith is therefore welcomed.

However, Keith appears to have missed the original point. Keith's comments and examples mainly refer to the Birmingham cds, whereas Fitz's article and my response were referring to the oval registered mark.

The three St. Lawrence cancellers are:–

		ERD	LRD	Note
S.O. 'Birmingham' cds	Proud D2	29 May 1933 K Bayley	12 Oct 1973 K Bayley	
B.O. 'Birmingham' cds	Proud D3	Aug 1938 Benwell	12 Oct 1973 K Bayley	
S.O. Registered Oval	Proud R1	11 Jul 1933 Proud	23 Feb 1939 Proud	Roett copy dated 14 May 1937 K Bayley reports receiving a favour strike on 12 Oct 1973

Stating our current knowledge / understanding:

St. Lawrence was opened 1 April 1933 at 'Cosey Ville', Stream Road.

CDS SO date stamp used 29 May 1933 (Bayley)

St. Lawrence was moved to (G.C.) Ward's Pharmacy on 11 June 1935.

St. Lawrence became a branch office (third grade) 1 April 1938 – ERD Aug 1938 (Benwell) and it is fairly likely that the S.O. cancellers were put away and the new B.O. mark was then used exclusively during the war period. There just wasn't enough traffic to justify two cancellers and who would want to use an SO when a shiny new BO was to hand?!!

The S.O. CDS was used again after the war (as per K Bayley) it was obviously working OK and the guidelines for use may have been forgotten.

There is no evidence of the Reg. oval - LRD 23 Feb 1939 – being used during or after the war until my note of 3 May 1967 so it looks likely it was used latterly with K Bayley's evidence. But are there examples out there of dates that fill the gaps?

Sadly, I do not have an example of the Registered Oval myself! – I would say it is rare. Proud gives it a value of about 100.00 on cover and 10.00 on stamp for pre-war. 1960s and 70s use would worth be far less and are probably philatelic.

In 1950 the Postmistress was Miss Dorrian Watson and the wooden office was in Stream Road. By 1966 the office was at a different location and made of brick.

So, to summarize for the registered mark, the ERD is 11 Jul 1933 (from Proud – everyone else shows 17 Jul 1933); the LRD is 23 Feb 1939 except for K Bayley's favour strike of 12 Oct 1973 (but I have a note that it was reused 3 May 1967?).



Scan provided by K Bayley dated 29 May 1933, the ERD



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BRITISH GUIANA**POSTAGE DUE ADHESIVES QUESTION 212/04****BY MICHAEL HAMILTON**

I'm trying to get a better understanding of how the 1890s 'Postage Due' adhesives worked, and in particular why it was deemed necessary to additionally kill the adhesive by application of the office datestamp.

The attached scan shows the full 'POSTAGE DUE./CENTS' handstamp (Type PD 1) as illustrated Townsend & Howe Page 361 with 'Rather crude strikes of this stamp have been found on issues of 1889–90 and one on a dated piece of 1895. None so far has the space for number of cents filled in. In black. Scarce.'

My attached copies are both on 2c dull purple & orange CA (SG.194) and are cancelled T.P.O. DEMERARA RIVER (T.1a) NO 4 1896 and MAHAICA (T.4) 8 AP 97.



There seem to be three options:

1. The PD 1 handstamp was applied to the added adhesive at Head Office killing the stamp, and addition of the office dater was only applied to show arrival date - but why on the stamp?
2. A whole range of offices were supplied with PD 1 handstamps, but again why was the dater additionally applied?
3. A datestamp is intended to kill the adhesive and show when. So, is there any possibility that sheets of various denominations were pre-cancelled with the PD 1 handstamp and sent to various offices for use as and when. As the pre-cancelled stamp was affixed it was then finally killed by the office dater as would be for a normal stamp.

Details of other loose stamps are required, particular their denominations and sight of the T+H mentioned dated piece would be most interesting. Any thoughts greatly appreciated.

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(All BK cw numbers)

1938 1 st print 2/- to £1 (6) mm	£325	2/- cw17 mm	£80
2/- cw17 right margin mm	£90	2/- cw11a plate blk 6, scroll variety	£150
2/6 cw12, 12a range of 4 mm	£95	2/6 cw12 HPF10a/11 two mm	£50
2/6 cw12 frame flaw 'E' mm	£80	2/6 cw22a lower left blk 8	£45
5/- cw13 mm FF39 mm	£40	5/- cw13a mm	£50
5/- cw18 mm HPF24a	£70	5/- cw18 mm	£60
5/- cw A19 plate plug mm	£285	5/- cw23 two top margin blks 4	£75
5/- cw23b plate blk 4	£48	5/- cw23a top right pair & single mm	£40
10/- cw14 mm	£95	10/- cw20 mm	£90
10/- cw24 blk four mm	£80	10/- cw24a blk 4 lower margin mm	£80
10/- cw24a plate blk 4 mm	£100	12/6 cw15aa top right mm	£85
12/6 cw 25, 25a range of 6	£225	£1 cw16 mm	£80

Ref. Bermuda Green Book (£45)

12/6 Prague – a fine cover with BPA certificate cw 15bb £3250

Subject Unsold, Plus Postage or Carriage

**ALLAN LEVERTON**Private Box 155
@ 89/91 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HS

CAYMAN ISLANDS

PAST CAYMAN COLLECTORS

GRAHAM BOOTH

The Spink sale of 106 lots of the Cayman Islands in December 2005 was a unique opportunity. Not because of the possibility of acquiring some of the rarities of the Cayman Islands – there were some very nice items but with a couple of exceptions nothing that was unlikely to appear again at auction in the next five years – but because of the opportunity to acquire a substantial number of sheets from two of the great Cayman collectors, A J Watkin and C W Meredith, exactly as they had left them, respectively 60 and 51 years ago. They had been bought by ‘Ambassador’ at the Robson Lowe sale of Meredith’s collection in 1955 and had remained untouched ever since.

There is no way that one can be certain that the contents were identical, but it would appear that the following lots were substantially the same

- Collection, Creek and Little Cayman; Watkin lot 177; Meredith lot 224 and Ambassador lot 3676.
- Collection, Boddentown; Watkin lot 178; Meredith lot 225 and Ambassador lot 3660.
- Collection, East End; Watkin lot 179; Meredith lot 226 and Ambassador 3678.
- Collection, West Bay and North Side; Watkin lot 180; Meredith lot 227 and Ambassador lot 3681.

These would appear to have been remounted by Meredith on his own conventional sheets but using the little pieces of card with their unique red border from the Watkin sheets, as descriptions. They clearly post date Watkin, as they are frequently headed with cut outs describing the various types of cancel taken from his sale catalogue. By modern standards the mounting was very unprofessionally done. Meredith seemed to have been anxious to fill as much of the sheet as possible with material, so there was considerable overlapping of covers, some being hinged to others. In addition, Watkin’s descriptions were frequently stuck to the front of the cover with hinges. The lots contain many covers that have been vandalised – cut down, reduced to fronts and in a couple of cases with the back stamp cut out and stuck to the front of the cover.

One has to ask which of the two gentlemen concerned was responsible for this carnage and has to conclude, although not categorically, that it was Meredith. The penultimate lot in the Ambassador sale, lot 3712, was a large lot on home made rectangular card leaves approximately 12” x 7” in which slits had been cut at the appropriate place to take covers of different sizes. These carry Watkin’s descriptive cards hinged to the card itself and not to the covers. There are very few fronts or cut down covers. In addition inscriptions on the cards suggest that these originated as lots 159, 160, 161, 162 and 163 in the Watkin sale, although now very much remaindered, and that they accurately reflect the manner in which Watkin kept his collection. There were also a number of covers that had been mutilated by cutting out the name of the addressee. These would appear to have been sent either to W T Wilson or A S Ratty and the damage therefore should not be attributed to either collector.

The auction as a whole resolved one of the minor mysteries of collecting Cayman covers which is why when so many Huber covers exist there are relatively few covers addressed to Watkin. The answer is that they have been hiding on the continent for the last 50 years. It also changed my view of the pantheon of Cayman collectors. Clearly Adutt and Bostock dominated the first decade, to be followed by Watkin and Huber until the Second World War. I had placed Lloyd Lowles on the evidence of his exhibit at Belgica 72 together with Meredith, on the evidence of his sale catalogue, as the two collectors who dominated the immediate post war years, but unless anybody can provide evidence to the contrary I would be inclined to downgrade Meredith. He contributed nothing to the literature, and on the evidence of this auction he bought a huge chunk of the Watkin collection, didn’t do much with it, and what he did do may have been very counter productive.

JAMAICA

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH BY BOB SWARBRICK, DEREK SUTCLIFFE AND STEVE JARVIS

A recent visit by me (Steve Jarvis) to Derek Sutcliffe in his nursing home involved sorting through some of his large quantity of research paperwork, which had become rather disorganised during his change of abode. Amongst these papers, I came across an interesting binder containing the basis of this article on the Returned Letter Branch. Derek wasn't sure if it had been published and my subsequent investigations seem to confirm that it has not seen the light of day – particularly as the introduction referred to some sections that were not included in the binder. A further visit to Derek unearthed some additional folders containing related hand-written notes and covers and these allowed me to unravel the pedigree of the folder and pursue the work to publication.

The origin of most of the material and research can be attributed to Bob Swarbrick. Derek purchased much of the RLB material at Bob's sale in 1995 and Derek had typed up and mounted the pages in the folder, supplementing with his own information. The hand-written paperwork was mostly in Bob's hand-writing so Derek and Bob must have collaborated on the wording of the article. However, some aspects of the article had not yet been transcribed and existed in multiple versions with annotations. I contacted Bob and he was only too pleased to work with me to unravel the notes and apply his expertise to the finished article.

This article should be regarded as a work-in-progress draft that will appear in the Bulletin in several parts. Members are invited to contribute their knowledge and images to enhance the information which will eventually be published in a volume of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia. Members are requested to let me know of any relevant items in their collections, so that a rarity assessment can be ascertained, (contact details inside front cover).

Background

From the earliest days the Jamaican mail was not delivered to individual addresses but held at Coffee Houses and Post Offices for collection. Local deliveries only started in Kingston in 1869 and even now, most rural areas do not benefit from a door-to-door delivery service.

A process was introduced circa 1705, where mail was advertised for collection, initially, only at the G.P.O. at Kingston but later at country offices and in newspapers.

The mail was retained by the office to which it had been sent for collection, and was held by that office for a specific period to allow time for collection by, or for, the addressee. In the case of ordinary letters this period was usually four weeks. Before returning the mail to the Returned Letter Branch in Kingston, a country office would handstamp each individual item with the office's 'UNCLAIMED' marking, or often, in the case of the smaller offices not having a handstamp, with a similar manuscript endorsement.

The system of advertising was probably abolished about 1910, as by that time it had become almost impossible to deal with the upsurge of letters and postcards. Indeed, the volume had increased, over the years, mainly due to the advent of the picture postcard in Jamaica in 1899. Even before then, there had been problems, as shown by the following extract from the 'Gleaner' of the 24 June 1885.

In the year under review [1884] –

- *Letters returned to the U.K., paid – 369, unpaid – 183*
- *To U.P.U. countries, paid – 2495, unpaid – 287;*
- *Reposted to writers in the country (writers outside Kingston) – paid 7364, unpaid 2232*
- *Destroyed, address illegible, paid - 1687, unpaid 898;*
- *Writer not found, paid - 2787, unpaid – 1958*
- *Newspapers returned to Publishers, paid 2879, unpaid – 10*
(a total of 27,454, or say 90 pieces per working day !).

By 1930 no less than 125,829 items of the mail passed through the R.L.O. – over four times the volume dealt with in 1884 (taken from the Jamaica Year Book). Whilst these two sets of figures are relevant to the whole of the work of the R.L.O., they are included at this point to indicate why the advertising procedure was abandoned. Given the volume of the Mail, the surprise is that more of the 'advertised' handstamp markings have not survived than the ones already recorded.

'Advertised' and 'Unclaimed' Markings

Information regarding these two sets of markings, have previously been published by Tom Foster and Bob Swarbrick and do not warrant replication here.

- Thomas Foster 'The Postal History of Jamaica, 1662-1880' p124
- The Modern 'Unclaimed' Handstamps of Jamaica by Robert V. Swarbrick, BCPSG Journal #136 (September 1985)

The Returned Letter Branch, Its Role and Associated Markings

The workings of the 'Returned Letter Branch' of the Jamaican Post Office – often referred to as the 'Dead Letter Office' or the 'Returned Letter Office' depending on which aspect of its functions were being exercised at the time – have received very little study. Over the years Bob Swarbrick amassed a large quantity of material and much of it is shown below with most of the postal history information being supplied from his notes.

This Branch of the G.P.O. had two or more basic functions, first, where possible, to return undelivered and uncollected letters and other mail to the sender, and secondly, the disposal of undelivered or uncollected mail after a certain period. For convenience, hereafter these undelivered or uncollected items of mail are collectively referred to as the 'mail' and the Returned Letter Branch – in all its aspects – as the 'R.L.O.'.

The R.L.O. with its many markings and stationery creates many different facets, and therefore it is convenient to divide, the R.L.O.'s functions into various parts.

- Part I Stationery
- Part II 'Returned Letter Branch' markings
- Part III 'Return to Sender' markings
- Part IV considers other markings and handstamps of an 'informative' nature

It should be mentioned that whilst the R.L.O. was established at Kingston from an early date, there is evidence of an alternative sorting method being adopted soon after the establishment of the Post Office, but it was soon dropped and the sorting and control of the mail reverted to the Kingston G.P.O.

Despite extensive research, few early covers, returning mail to a destination outside the island, from the R.L.O., have been located, and whilst these few covers are not sufficient from which to formulate any rules of procedure, likewise they show no particular divergence from the procedures adopted within the island.

Stationery Used by the R.L.O.

This is an interesting area of research, mainly because most of the material considered would be thrown away by the recipient, e.g. returned letters etc., then out of date. However, one should make a distinction between two categories of mail, firstly mail that was being returned to the sender by the R.L.O. because the postman was unable to deliver it, and secondly, mail returned because it contravened the regulations – such as lack of postage, or other reasons. Because of these two broad categories of the mail it may be that this distinction gave rise to the use of the different types of envelope by the R.L.O., some worded 'RETURNED LETTER BRANCH' and others 'DEAD LETTER OFFICE'. Indeed, it is not even clear at this stage whether or not there were two different sections or offices of the R.L.O., but for the purposes of this section all the items are designated as belonging to the R.L.O.

In the course of this research, an 1868 cover was discovered with the intriguing endorsement on the reverse, 'W. Kemble Postmaster of Jamaica' which led to a quest for further information.

This quest involved, amongst other things, research into the names and periods of office of the Postmasters of Jamaica. It would appear that when a new Postmaster was appointed new stationery was ordered bearing his name. So, in the absence of dated items, knowledge of the periods of tenure provide an approximate dating method – a list of the Postmasters and their dates of office, so far as concerns the years 1868–1955, appear below.

Postmasters of Jamaica from 1869.

Postmaster	Date	Ellis Wolfe	1916 – 1924
W. Kemble	1868 – 1870	Reginald Honan Fletcher	1925 –
G. Sullivan	1870 – 1890	William Alexander Campbell	1939 –
George H. Pearce	1890 – 1903	Esric Lionel Morris	1945 –
Alfred Henry Miles	1904	George Fitzgerald White	1950
John Barkly Lucie-Smith	1904 – 1913	Allison Alfred Vernon Nash	1954
uncertain of post master	1914 – 1915	Joseph Green	Dec 1955

[Editors Note: Any corrections or additions to this list would be welcome]

By and large, the envelopes follow the same format and are based on similar types used in the United Kingdom. Most have 'ON HER (HIS) MAJESTY'S SERVICE' across the top; to the left appears the wording, 'The enclosed letter not having been delivered for the reasons assigned thereon, was opened by an Officer appointed for that purpose, and is now returned to the writer'. Some examples have further information, such as 'On payment of postage', and below most have the name and title of the current Postmaster. The bottom left of many covers bear the wording 'DEAD LETTER OFFICE' or 'RETURNED LETTER BRANCH' or variants thereof, but as in the case of other covers, these are illustrated below to show the wording, type setting used and format.

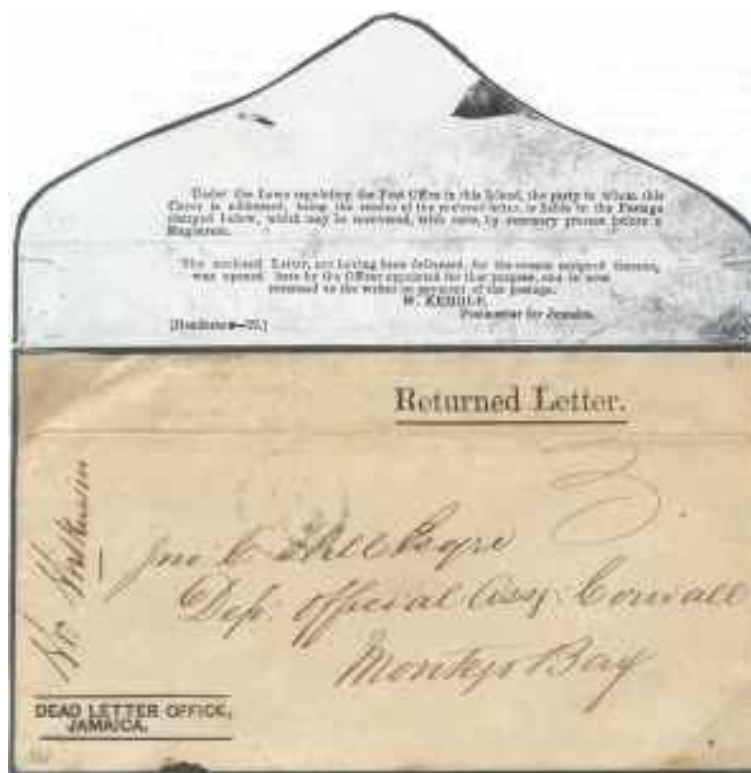
The printing of these covers was carried out by the Government Printing Works, and some covers have a printer's code number; most are known on brown or blue paper, hence, the variable quality of some of the reproductions in this section.

RLBS-01 KEMBLE / DLO

The first of the envelopes – RLBS-01 – is made with buff coloured paper and has 'DEAD LETTER OFFICE, / JAMAICA' printed in the bottom right corner and states 'Returned Letter.'

At the top towards the right hand side. Information common to the other examples is given on the inside of the flap of the cover, and there is also an extract from the Act relating to the payment of postage.

W. Kemble was the Postmaster and it is believed that the 'Kemble' covers are the first type to be considered, Henderson being the Government Printer, and his printer's code number '29' appears on the flap.



This cover bears Kingston dater of the 14 Sept 1868. It should also be noted that although addressed to a local official, postage of 3d was payable – as shown by the m/s '3' on the obverse.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-01	14 Sept 1868	14 Sept 1868	

RLBS-02 – SULLIVAN / DLO

The cover designated RLBS-02 is similar to RLBS-01, as to the information given, both on the obverse and reverse. The wording on the flap is in a slightly different format and bears the name 'G. Sullivan', the Postmaster who succeeded Kemble.

It is printed on pale blue paper and has a most attractive seal, 'GENERAL POST OFFICE JAMAICA' in relief on the flap.

It should be added that Sullivan was undoubtedly one of the best Postmasters that Jamaica ever appointed, and under his leadership all the Post Office departments flourished.



This RLBS-02 cover bears RLBR-01 dated the 27 Nov 1873, and from the manuscript endorsement it appears that the return postage had then been increased to 4d

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-02	27 Nov 1873	20 Feb 1885	

RLBS-03A – PEARCE / DLO / OHERMS

RLBS-03A – is similar to the previous two items, and is a cover from the Geo. H. Pearce era.

This cover, however, has the information on the obverse instead of on the inside of the flap. The cover has the heading 'On Her Majesty's Service', and a code number '531' – this code number continued to be used by the Government Printers right up to Independence in 1962.

A policy change also appears on the cover, the enclosure is now returned post paid, and 'Paid' appears at the top right.



Photostat copy of type RLBS-03A cover dated 18 April 1890.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-03A	18 Apr 1890	Apr 1900	

During the fourteen years tenure of office by Geo. H. Pearce, printing of the 531 coded envelopes show small but significant changes indicating different printings.

5311

On Her Majesty's Service.

Parliament Letter not having been delivered for the reason assigned therein was, upon 4 June 1841, Office applied for the return, and is now returned to the writer.

Return Letter.

Paid.

W. J. Hickmich, Esq.
Secretary
Genl. Service

Dead Letter Office
JAMAICA.

Photostat copy of type RLBS-03B cover
also with RLBR-01 handstamp dated 16 Feb 1894.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-03B	16 Feb 1894		

RLBS-04 LUCIE-SMITH / DLO / OHISMS

On His Majesty's Service

The national flag has been sent to the...
Returned Letter.
Paid.

Mrs. Louis Franklin #63
J. S. Ferguson

Dead Letter Office,
Jamaica.

Type RLBS-04 plus RLBR-02 dated 13 May 1910 struck in black ink.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-04	13 May 1910		

RLBS-05 ELLIS WOLFE/ DLO / OHISMS

Under the Laws regulating the Post Office in this Island the party to whom this cover is addressed, being the sender of the enclosed letter, is liable to the postage charged below, which may be recovered with costs, by summary process before a Magistrate. The enclosed Letter, not having been delivered for the reason assigned thereon, was opened here by the Officer appointed for that purpose, and is now returned to the writer on payment of the postage.

ELLIS WOLFE, Postmaster for Jamaica

The new format resulting in a different Printer's code, '530' which appeared at the top centre of the obverse.

The other difference was that the word 'Paid' was omitted – postage was to be charged. – it should be added that Ellis Wolfe was Postmaster from 1916 to 1924.



Type RLBS-05, the cover bears a 1½d 'Contingent Embarking' value, but it is suspected that this stamp has been added to the cover to enhance its appearance. Even worse, the cover is undated

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-05			

RLBS-06 FLETCHER / DLO / OHISMS

In due course, Wolfe was succeeded by R.H. Fletcher, and his covers are identical to RLBS-05 except for the change of name, change in type setting and the code '531' being moved to the extreme top right; there is also no period after the word 'Letter' at the top right.



One of Fletcher's covers – Type RLBS-06, bears RLBR-02 struck in black dated 17 Sept 1927.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-06	17 Sept 1927		

RLBS-07 – ANONYMOUS / RLO / OHISMS

The seventh cover – RLBS-07 – is similar to the previous type, except that it does not bear the Postmaster's name and the word 'Paid' does not appear.

Another departure from the previous covers, is that the R.L.O. is now referred to as the 'Returned Letter Office' instead of the 'Dead Letter Office', and has the additional wording 'General Post Office, Kingston, Jamaica.' at the bottom left.



Type RLBS-07 bearing RLBR-02 dater in black dated 20 Aug 1941.

It is interesting to note from that this cover bears code '531', as do the 1890 covers, despite the period of time that had elapsed since the introduction of code '530' in the 1920's.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-07	20 Aug 1941		

RLBS-08 – ANON / RLO / OHERMS

To conclude this section there are shown two modern covers from the R.L.O. and a modern dater used by the office.

The first of these covers is worded as RLBS-07, with the same wording at the bottom left but in block sans serif type instead of mixed serif type.

The heading is worded 'On Her Majesty's Service.' in block mixed serif type and the cover bears no code number.

The cds, designated RLBR-02D, is dated 14 Dec 1965.



Type RLBS-08. The cover bears RLBR-02D dater of the 14 Dec 1965.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-08	14 Dec 1965		

RLBS-09 – ANON / RLO / OJGS

The last cover, RLBS-09, is similar to RLBS-08 but is headed 'On Jamaica Government Service.'



Type RLBS-09. It bears Constant Spring dater of the 8 May 1970.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-09	8 May 1970		

Departmental Stationery

The following two items possibly have been used for internal Post Office use for departmental correspondence as they do not include the wording 'Returned Letter' nor is there is any mention of postal charges. Further the envelope uses the terminology 'Returned Letter Branch'.

RLBS-20 – ANON / RLB / OHERMS

This type of envelope is worded 'Returned Letter Branch, / Jamaica Post Office.' On the obverse at the bottom left and 'On Her Majesty's Service' at the top centre.

It does not have the Printer's code Number 531, but at the bottom right on the obverse has the notation '1000-12.3.91.', the usual way to indicate a print of 1000 envelopes, on the 12 Mar 1891. The paper colour is russet brown.

Whilst no name is shown on the cover, it is a 'Geo. H. Pearce' era cover.



Type RLBS-20 cover was sent post free as shown by the 'Free' manuscript marking at the top right. The cover also bears RLBR-01 of the 2 Sept 1892

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-20	2 Sept 1892		

RLBS-21 – ANON / RLB / OHISMS

There is no information regarding the date of the next item, except obviously during a King's reign.

Note the word 'RETURN' (no ED).



Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-21			

RLB Registration

The following two items appear to be 'ambulance covers' specifically used for Registered Mail but no further information is available.

RLBS-30 – ANON / RLB

The large piece shown below has 'Returned Letter Branch, / JAMAICA.' printed at lower left.

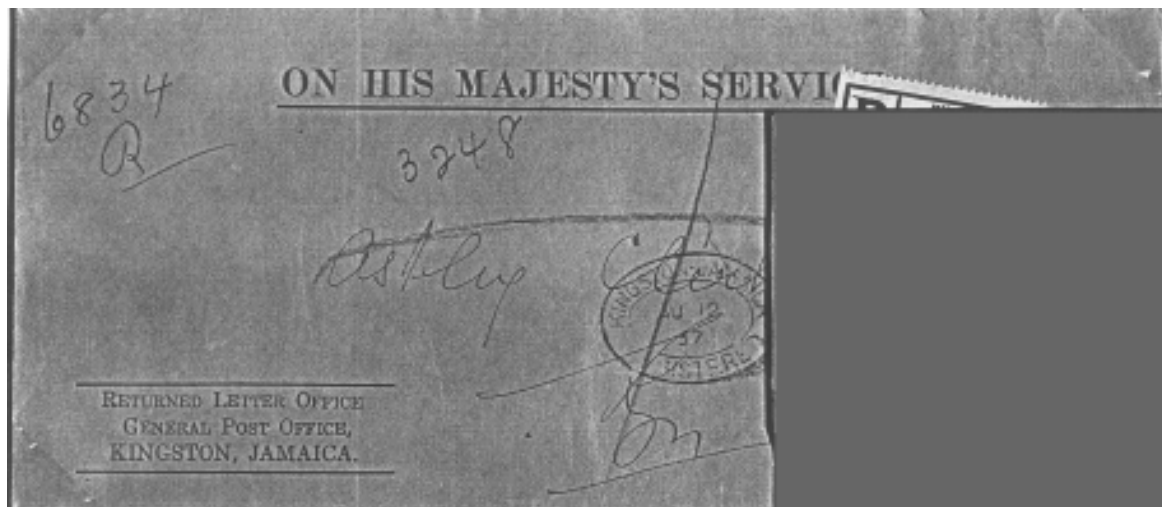


Dated 21 Dec 1909

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-30	21 Dec 1909		

RLBS-31 – ANON / RLB / OHISMS

The wording bottom left is 'RETURNED LETTER OFFICE / GENERAL POST OFFICE, / KINGSTON, JAMAICA.' and 'ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE' but there is no evidence of 'returned letter'.



Dated 12 Aug 1937

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
RS	RLBS-31	12 Aug 1937		

MEMBERS' WANTS

Item Ref	Description	Contact Details
CF006 10 Jan 2007	Charles Freeland is looking for plate plugs on singles or blocks of the Br. Guiana 1889-1910 ships, the Br. Guiana 1913-27 badge, the Grenada GV definitives and the St. Lucia 1921-7 series. Plus Thompson flaws on Montserrat ½d green and on any BWI specimens.	Charles Freeland charles.freeland@hotmail.com

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JAMAICA

1919 DE LA RUE 'SMALLER' WAR STAMP OVERPRINT

BY STEVE JARVIS

In the December Bulletin, John Davis posed a few questions relating to the existence or not of the smaller WAR STAMP overprint on the Jamaican ½d and 3d. At the time I did not have access to Derek Sutcliffe's collection but subsequently he has lent me some pages and I reproduce my findings below.

Neither Derek nor I own a positional block for the ½d value, so until any evidence to the contrary appears, the assumption must be that the variety does not occur.

However, for the 3d, Derek has a fine positional block from the right hand pane showing the variety, confirming John's conclusions:

- the normal overprint is 12½mm long and 2½mm high
- the positional variety is also 12½mm long but 2¼mm high.



Both overprints 12½mm long



Top overprint 2½mm high
Bottom ovpt 2¼mm high

MARITIME (STEAMSHIP LINES TO THE WEST INDIES)

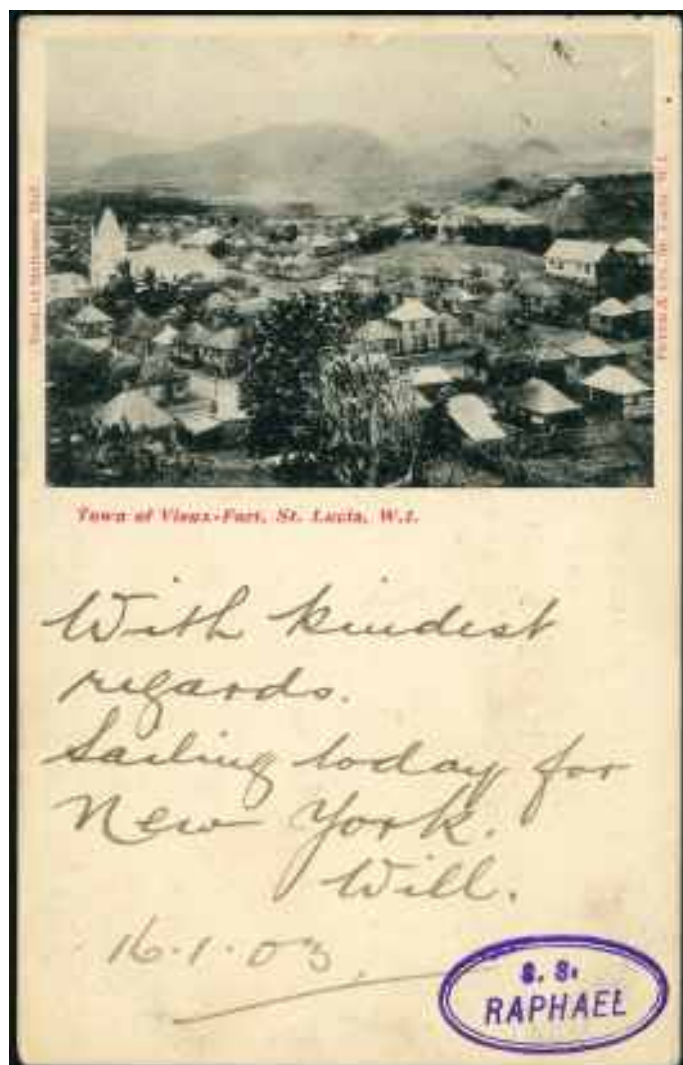
BOLTON STEAM SHIPPING COMPANY

BY MICHAEL REGO

Frederic Bolton was born in Islington on 7 March 1851, the son of a watercolour artist. His first job was as an office boy at the ship-owners and ship-builders T. & W. Smith, North Shields. In 1870 he returned to London to work for an insurance broker. In 1884 Frederic had enough funds to go into partnership with Louis T. Bartholomew and form F. Bolton & Company. They ordered their first tramp screw-steamer from J. L. Thompson & Sons Ltd., Sunderland with compound engines and auxiliary sail. She was delivered in June 1885 as 'Raphael', and from then all the new steamers entering the fleet were named after artists beginning with letter 'R'. 'Rembrandt' followed in August 1886, and 'Rubens' in July 1887, and the quartet was completed with 'Ruysdael'.

In 1906 the original steamers were sold to Compania Chilena de Navigation a Vapeurs, with 'Raphael' having the longest career being reduced to a hulk in Brazil in 1930.

Sir Frederic died in February 1920, having put the company into voluntary liquidation on 12 September 1917. But in November 1921, Louis Hamilton Bolton restarted the firm holding half the shares in the company. The Bolton Steam Shipping Company survived two world wars, until an American firm purchased the business in 1982.



S.S. Raphael oval cachet in violet.

Steamer of 1177 gross tons in service for F. Bolton & Co., 1885 - 1906.

In 1900 the Captain is J. Ledale.

Dated 16 Jan. 1903 the St. Lucia postcard is addressed to Mr H. Cocks, c/o Messrs J. F. Hogg & Company, Barry Dock, near Cardiff.

Message reads "With kindest regards. Sailing today for New York, Will"

Postmarked Castries, St. Lucia 17 JA 1903



funnel colours

Source: 'Travels of The Tramps' – book with twenty tramp fleets by Norman L. Middlemiss, published by Shield Publications, Newcastle Upon Tyne, 1989.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

THE ¼d DUTY PLATE 1909-38 – AN INTERIM SURVEY – PART 2

BY PETER FERNBANK

Steve Ramsden has written regarding Part 1 of this article (Bulletin 211) to say that he has the 'Short RH leg of W' (LP10/2) on a Plate 11 copy. He also has the 'ISLANDS slopes up/Short top tail to S' flaw (RP9/3) on a copy overprinted specimen, which must be from the first printing from Plate 1a.

Part 1 of this article considered the flaw history of the duty plate up to and including the Plate 26 printing of February 1933. By the following printing from Plate 28 in October 1936 however, the plate had radically changed state.

Until very recently only 24 positions on the sheet (the bottom two rows from the LH pane and blocks of 4 from the other three outer corners) were available from Pl.28 for direct comparison with those from the same positions from the previous Pl.26 printing. Amongst these 24 comparable examples there are three flaws on Pl.26 examples, and five on Pl.28, but those from Pl.26 are not present on the Pl.28 printings, and those from Pl.28 are not on the Pl.26 printing.

However, after nearly fifteen years of searching for more Pl.28 material I was recently able to obtain the top half of the right pane from Plate 28, which I hoped would settle the question once and for all. The four digit sheet number (0231) on this half pane confirms that it is from the 1936 printing (1,010 sheets – Oct. 1936) rather than the second Plate 28 printing in Jan. 1938 (485 sheets, i.e. 3 digits).

Unfortunately this piece raised as many questions as it answered. Within the top five rows of the RH pane of Pl.26 there are 8 flaws, some of them minor. On the Pl.28 piece from the same position there are 9 (most of them minor); but once again those from Pl.26 are not present on the Pl.28 printing, and those from Pl.28 are not on the Pl.26 printing.

There are three possible explanations for this:–

- a) The plate might have been subjected to an extensive and very thorough repair operation after the Pl.26 printing, where even the relatively trivial flaws were repaired (some of which were barely worth the effort).

But, having gone to the trouble of so meticulously repairing the plate, why was it then re-issued with so many new flaws present. It could be argued that these new flaws might have been produced by carelessness during the repair operation, but given the diligence with which the task had been carried out, the plate must surely have been inspected after the repairs had been effected.

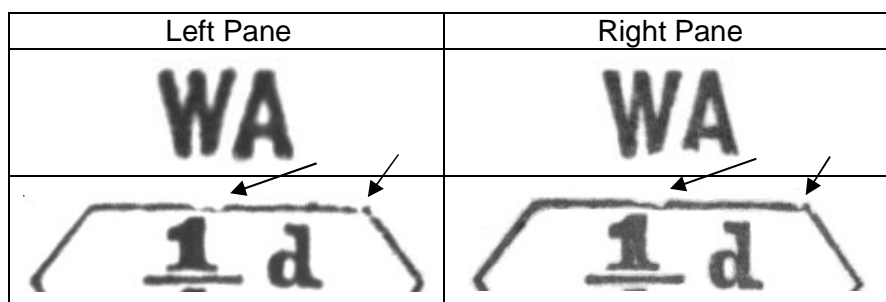
- b) A new duty plate had been made.

Against this hypothesis is the lack of crispness in the lettering and value tablet frame in a number of cases, coupled with the lack of jubilee lines around the plate (nearly always provided on new duty plates of this period). And again, would a brand new plate be issued with so many flaws present?

- c) The plate had been reduced to 60-set size by the removal of one pane (probably the badly worn RH pane).

The remaining 60-set plate (the left pane) would then have been used to overprint both left and right panes of the 120-set key plate imprint sheet, pending the making of the new plate in 1938. Printing twice from a 60-set duty plate on to a 120-set key plate sheet was standard practise in the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

There is some support for this option. From the illustration below it can be seen that for the Pl.28 printing a flaw comprising damaged lettering and aberrations to the top frame of the value tablet appears on row 9 stamp 6 of the LH pane. A near identical flaw (apart from the base of the LH leg of 'A') is also present on row 9 stamp 6 of the right pane as well.

Position 9/6 on Plate 28 Printings only

Unfortunately this is the only flaw from the Pl.28 printings where examples are available from the same position on both left and right panes. However, even assuming that the plate was reduced to 60-set, none of the flaws on the top half of the Pl.28 RH pane appear on the LH pane from Pl.26.

The note against the entry for the 1/4d plate in the Crown Agents' *Register of Dies, Plates, Formes, etc.* (see Bulletin 211), stating 'Plate to be destroyed. See note attached to plate' (c.1933) clearly shows that it was intended to replace the plate. It may have been decided to wait until more 1/4d stamps were ordered before taking any action, but by the time a new order was received in 1936 King George V had died. De la Rue were heavily engaged in preparing for the Coronation issue for Edward VIII, and it may have been decided to either repair the existing plate or use just the LH pane as outlined in (c) above, rather than make a new plate.

The solution to this conundrum must await more material from Pl.28 becoming available, and if anyone has sheets, panes or large pieces from this plate, please contact me at 128 Sinclair Avenue, Banbury, Oxon OX16 1BL or email: pfermbank@tiscali.co.uk.

As an addendum, it is worth noting the position of the sheet numbers on the two printings of the 1/4d Pl.28, both of which are unusual. I have seen neither on any other Leewards KGV values. The normal position is above stamp 6 in the top right margin.



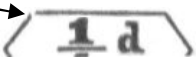



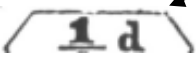
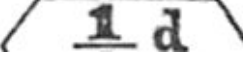
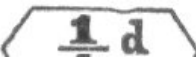


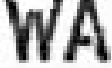

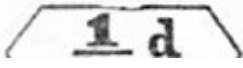


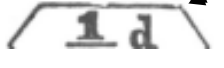
October 1936 printing



January 1938 printing

By courtesy of Michael Oliver

Flaws on Plate 28 only

Left Pane			Right Pane		
Row/ stamp	Description		Row/ STAMP	Description	
9/1	Break in top LH corner of frame		1/3	Dent in top of frame above '1'	
9/6	Right base of 'W' short and cut slanted.		1/6	Dent in frame above and to right of '1'	
	Damage to top of frame above '1', small break at top RH corner		3/6	Break in frame above '1'	
10/1	Dent in top of frame above 'd'		4/3	Break in 'D' of ISLANDS	
			4/4	Dent in frame to right of '1'	
			4/5	1. Centre apex of 'W' missing 2. Break in bar of 1st 'A'	
			4/6	Thin diagonal of final 'S'	
			5/1	Extensive denting to top of frame	
			5/4	1. 'Swans head' on 1st 'S' 2. Thin diagonal of 2nd 'S'	
			9/6	Right base of 'W' short and cut slanting, left leg of 'A' short	
				Damage to top of frame above '1', small break at top RH corner	

ST. KITTS

ST.KITTS POSTMARK (RESPONSE TO QUESTION 211/01)

BY MICHAEL NETHERSOLE

I have an almost complete set to the 5/- KG-VI perf 14 with this cancel, all dated 6 Feb 1948, which I presumed had come from a philatelic cover, since nearly all of the strikes are full, and at 12 o'clock. I also have the 5/- KG-VI Silver Wedding with this cancel dated 7 Feb 1949. One cannot help but think of Madame Joseph, so I had a look. The cancel is not an exact match, but it is close, to the example shown as Fig 353, in Derek Worboys first edition. (I do not have the second edition.) I fear that my 'set' of perf 14 used, all beautifully 'socked on the nose', is an example of that 'artist's' work.

Brian M Cartwright comments: It is NOT a Madame Joseph, BUT that does not mean it is genuine!

MEMBERS' WANTS

Item Ref	Description	Contact Details
DH001 19 Jan 2007	St. Vincent: – Pagets Farm postmark on George VI stamp or early QEII.	David Horry horry.t21@btinternet.com

ST. LUCIA

FAKE POSTMARK

BY MICHAEL REGO

A recently acquired picture post card of Soufriere Town added to its attraction with a distinct Castries postmark. The St^e.LUCIA / CASTRIES single circle mark is clearly dated 22 NO 16.



The card reverse is addressed to Marcel Cldam, Route de Chatillon, Reims, France, and is dated 22 Nov 1916, with brief message, signed Louis. However the reverse clearly shows no signs of adhesive previously affixed likewise on the obverse.

I then re-studied the postmark St^e.LUCIA / CASTRIES and could not find this listed either in Ritchie's work or that of past journals of the Study Circle. The normal postmark of this period is CASTRIES / St^e.LUCIA. For a while I was on a high - thinking a new postmark had been discovered - but alas closer inspection reveals it to be a total fake, the postcard was never in the postal system of St. Lucia or France.

Earlier this year in March, my wife and I had the good fortune and great pleasure in staying in St. Lucia with Linda Molloy (who 10 years ago produced the superb postcard book 'Saint Lucia Past - A Pictorial History'). As we travelled around the island with Linda, we included a visit to Soufriere. The view of the postcard above shows the main street which even today drivers pass right-through the town centre passing the Catholic Church dominating the town. The approach to Soufriere either by sea or by road is breathtaking, with its Pitons on the edge of town and sulphur spring a mile inland.

To conclude the postmark has been wholly contrived in France ensuring their influence in the island had still not diminished in 1916, or in my case ninety years later studying the French presence even today on a visit to St. Lucia in 2006.

MEMBERS' WANTS

Item Ref	Description	Contact Details
SR001 16 Nov 2006	Turks & Caicos War Stamps with the inverted K for X variety plus SG 62, 63, 64 full sheets of 30 if possible showing the neck flaw etc. Also other multiples of these stamps (SG 62-64)	Stephen Roberts (01606 782818 Home) (01606 852148 Work) head@wallerscote.cheshire.sch.uk

ST. VINCENT**RECEIVED DAMAGED****BY STEVE ZIRINSKY**

I thought this official sealing tape (which is new to me) would be of interest to your readers (and associated cachet).

**SUBSCRIPTION**

Subscriptions for 2007 were due 1 January

Please view the bottom right of the mailing sheet to check your subscription status.

Please note: Due to the change in the US\$ to GB£ currency exchange rate the Committee have decided that the subscription in US dollars should now be \$25.



(at 50%)

TOBAGO**A14 OBLITERATOR QUESTION 212/03****BY MICHAEL HAMILTON**

Moriah and Pembroke Post Offices opened on January 1st 1897 with no known use of datestamps until 1929 and 1937 respectively. Can any member record use of re-allocated 'A14' obliterator on either the Tobago 1896 ½d on 4d lilac & carmine (SG.33), or Trinidad Seated Britannia low values (SG.114-116, SG.126-127).

TRINIDAD**ON H.M.S. 'ESSAYS' ON QUEEN'S HEAD QUESTION 212/05****BY MICHAEL NETHERSOLE**

I did not know about the On H.M.S. 'Essays' on Queen's Head Issue until the Matthew Bennett / H.A.Harmers Sale of the Ramkisson Collection. Please refer to Lots 2234; 2235; and 2236. I have an example of the ½d. which I had thought was a bogus production. It is a used example, very similar to that shown in the illustration for Lot 2236. The 'Trinidad' cancel is the same, including the date; z.z/ AU 4/ 90, which is interesting in itself. If you look closely at the illustration, you will note that the code is z.z (not just z as described for the lot). There is also a small dot between the two z's, at middle height, which can be seen in the illustration if you look for it. All this I know because my strike is clearer. If authentic, the code 'z.z' must make this a rare cancel, because I have only found codes A, B, and C, (and a peculiarly shaped 'D': – possibly a malformed A, or B?), for this size of datestamp. Even on the larger diameter Trinidad datestamps, I have only found codes running from A through F.

I also have a 'GOVT PARCELS' overprint on a used 4d. Queen's Head, but the stamp is torn in half vertically. The date on this Trinidad cancel is A/ ? 30/ 83 as far as I can see, because the strike is poor and smudged.

Do any of our members have some definitive reference for either of these 'essays'?

TURKS ISLANDS**CROWN CA 1d FLAW****BY IAN POWLEY**

BWISC - Bulletin No. 211 December 2005.

On page 32 of the above bulletin you carried a question from Peter Marshal regarding a possible new flaw on the Crown CA issue of the 1d Turks Islands. I am sorry I don't have scanning capability to reproduce the results of my search of my little collection.

I have a mint single, no margins, in the shade described in the Challis book as pale rosy lake and under a good light one can make out a slight mark as if it is an early stage of the flaw illustrated. The mark is not quite as long as that shown by Peter Marshal. If further examples appear then it would appear that a piece of matter worked its way into one printing. However, I have no way of providing any positional clues from this item.

I also have a mint block of 18 from the left of the sheet with margins on three sides. This block is in the lake shade and shows the position 24 flaw but not the position 22 flaw. There is no sign of the new flaw. It does however have a 'scarlet fever' patch on the Queen's cheek at position 6.

I hope that this meagre supply of information is of some use.

TURKS AND CAICOS NATIONAL MUSEUM**BY NIGEL SADLER**

Nigel Sadler is Director of the Turks and Caicos National Museum in Grand Turk.

We are promoting the plans to open a stamp museum on Grand Turk. The Museum is to look at the history of stamps in the Turks and Caicos as well as the postal service. The Museum holds over 1000 Stamps, either as individual Stamps, first day covers or souvenir sheets. We are trying to build up an extensive collection of Turks and Caicos Island Stamps to provide a major resource for stamp researchers. We are seeking donations to fill our gaps and if you can help by donating any Stamps please contact the Museum.

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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****MATTHEW BENNETT 6 DECEMBER (ZURICH)**

Everyone seems puzzled as to why Ben Ramkisson should have selected Bennett to sell his award-winning Trinidad and Tobago collections. The results may look ok overall but it seems an odd choice given the patchy results for the Rubin collection and Zurich was an even odder location. One can only assume that Bennett gave Ben some form of guarantee, in which case the lackadaisical distribution of catalogues made the decision even more curious. In the event, many of our members received their catalogues very late, if at all, and several requests for further information or scans did not get a response. There seemed to be some confusion as to whether the Lugano or Baltimore offices were in charge, although there was an advantage for buyers with the European lots being distributed from Lugano but the other destinations taken back to Baltimore for despatch from there.

The sale was held in a smart hotel on the lake of Zurich and Swiss efficiency was evident with strong IT and good food (although there were complaints that the water was 'spiked'). The room was thin with Jochen Heddergott the only agent, though he was obviously representing many bidders, and John Taylor the only dealer. I was one of only three private collectors, although I was also carrying bids for a few friends. There was only one phone bidder, although he was very active and persistent, and an occasional beep from the internet. The book was patchy with strong bids here and there, but since the auctioneer never revealed a book bidder's number it was impossible to tell whether a lot that opened and closed at its 75% reserve had actually sold. Afterwards it was clear that there were many unsolds which Ben is keen to find good homes for.

The results of the sale were not a surprise, the top items fetching good (but in light of the current strong market, not outstanding prices) and many middle level lots attracting hardly any competition. The prices posted on the website come to SF665k (with a premium of 20%, this comes to about half the hammer price in sterling), but this includes the unsold lots at their reserves. The single phone bidder spent over SF180k on the Trinidad and to my frustration stayed on for the first 90 Tobago lots, spending another SF50k+.

The high points in the Trinidad postal history were the penny black cover at SF19k and the first Lady McLeod at SF32,500, both to the phone. The repaired Lady McLeod seemed not to sell but there was good demand for the large range of nice covers, especially the ship letters and the forwarding agents. The rare Trinidad Ship Letter went to one of our members for a bargain SF800, especially compared with the SF8,500 paid by the phone bidder for the no scarcer Ship Letter Trinidad. As at the Marriott sale, the postage due covers took off with the one from La Guayra fetching SF3,250. Among the stamps there were many unsolds, and the 1d missing value opened and closed at SF40k, but the study of the 1898 commemorative was sold as one lot for a healthy SF27k. Ben's terrific stationery aroused little enthusiasm except for the 1d formula card at SF2.6k.

I was hopeful of sneaking a few of Ben's superb range of early Tobago covers, but that proved a challenge. The gorgeous French 'TABAGO' mark went to the book at SF23k and the two straight line 'Tobagos' at SF3,250 and SF2.6k. A lovely first type crowned circle was SF2.6k and the rarer second type SF5k. Competition for the early stamped covers was also strong with a Heddergott customer winning the 1879 1/- at SF2.8, the spectacular 'too late for bag' at SF11k and the Treasury Tobago dues cover at SF7k. Taylor bought the GB stamps franked A14 and many of the proofs and specimens. The rare 1d on 6d bisect was creased so went cheaply at SF3,750 and the same stamp with inverted watermark had no certificate and did not sell. To my taste the choicest stamp item was the mint block of the 4d yellow-green which John Taylor bought for SF2,100 but most prices remained reasonable because the condition of many of the stamps was not quite investment grade.

SPINK 17 JANUARY

My forecast that there would be some bargains at the Jaffé St. Vincent Part II proved accurate. A strong team of BWISC members (Messrs Bond, Cronin, Duggleby, Gibbs, Goldblatt, Hamilton, Medlicott and yours truly) saw to it that no good items got away cheaply. With strong competition from the Sotheby's Baillie sale across town, the room was sparse, but it included the dreaded David Brandon, bidding for the customer who had dominated the first Jaffé sale. Once again, therefore, there were no bargains among the choicest quality lots, but if you were after an early 6d rate cover, a respectable Polignac or a missing fraction bar, this was the sale to bid in.

The long opening section of preadhesives, mostly rather average strikes, was uneventful. I was surprised the oval ship letters did not sell and two were snapped up by our members at the reserves in some active after-sale trading. Once the stamps started, Brandon made a grab for the goodies – no matter that his customer had already acquired a couple of nice blocks, a third was his objective. The 6d SG4 in an off-centre block of 8 was £3,000 plus the 15% premium and a block of four of the 1866 6d green in perf B £3,500. In comparison the block of the 4d blue at £1,200 and the 1/- brown at £3,500 were good value, but both had faults. The 5/- die proof proved very popular and rose to £6,500, although this had some quite nasty tone spots. The imperf 1893 5d/6d fetched an outstanding £2000 (why is it different from any other rare imprimatur?) but the highlight of the session were the two 1897 hand-painted essays, acquired by Peter for £600 odd in 1983 but now fetching £12,000. If one kept out of the bunfight there were many bargains to be had, especially on the duplicated lots. The many pairs of 6d on cover to London and the 8d rate to Polignac offered multiple choice and a couple of our members feasted on the 10 copies of the ½d on half 6d missing fraction bar. The plated settings of the provisionals all sold to our membership but the sheer amount of duplication provided opportunities for steals. Later on the presentation specimens were in demand and the extensive range of De La Rue covers found ready buyers among our members, while the fine selection of revenues attracted lively attention, as always these days.

All in all, Spink did well to find buyers for so many duplicate lots, at admittedly low reserves for today's market. A post-sale buyer bought up the unsold stamps and the sale total at the time of writing is £350k with only 25 unsolds, which I expect will be absorbed over time.

SOTHEBYS 17–9 JANUARY

We thought the BWI was all over, but there as a surprise final auction that included an outstanding collection of Sperati forgeries. I went along to see the fun as it was the morning following the Jaffé sale, but my hopes of sneaking a couple of items were quickly dashed, with multiple phone bidders and amazing prices for the Australian items setting the tone. Mark Taylor proved unbeatable on almost all the BWI material. The attractive coloured die proofs of Nevis were £750 and £500 (plus the 15% premium) and the pick of the stamps was the 'mint' 6d Tobago at £400 and the 'used' Bahamas QV £1 at £500 (although this included a genuine used £1). However, the Bermuda 4d (actually an unoverprinted Gibraltar) that was only recently discovered by Walske fetched a modest £300. The Bermuda/Gibraltar coloured 1/- die proofs were £650 and £700. We may need to reassess our values of these pretty items, as only the Dominica and Montserrat ones come along with any regularity. In the sidelines I discovered that Lady Baillie had agreed to allow the unsolds from all the ten sales to be offered without reserve in a roundup sale on 1–3 May, although the estimates will be as before.

VICTORIA STAMP COMPANY 10 FEBRUARY

Once again Phoebe came up with some outstanding BWI in a million dollar sale. The choicest section was Tom Osdene's Bermuda keyplates, but as this is somewhat sterile for our tastes the greatest interest was in the Leonard Frank St. Vincent, where some fresh material was on offer for those with anything left in their purses post-Jaffé. There was also a strong section of early Bahamas covers. New Jersey is further than I can easily travel but the results show that the market is alive and well in the US despite (or perhaps because of) the weak dollar. The Bermuda was modestly estimated and this occasioned lively demand, especially for the fine range of keyplate covers (though the Prague Lemon cover went unsold – we have seen too many of them of late). An almost complete 'set' of 8 George V die proofs fetched \$17k (all prices plus 15%). The fine range of flaws sold well, even though many were mounted, so maybe there is still hope for those who prefer the front of the stamp. The St. Vincent was quieter, again indigestion perhaps, with only one of the six Polignacs selling. But there were good prices for some unusual proof material and the cancels, many ex Pierce of PML fame, went mostly way above what looked to me to be accurate estimates. Finally, the ex-Walker copy of the Grenada 6d 'CANCELLED' went for a healthy \$10,5k.

FUTURE EVENTS

This will be brief because I am assuming readers can access the dealers/auctions menu on our website where continuous updates are announced. The next big event will be the Jaffé St. Lucia on 7 March that will probably be over by the time you read this, with the Crutwell St. Lucia the following day at Argyll Etkin. We can then look forward to Derek Nathan's Br Guiana at Spink on 12 April.

NEW!

Classic Collections

NEW!

CAYMAN ISLANDS

by Richard Maisel, F.R.P.S.L.

The third of our occasional series devoted to Classic Collections, this describes Richard Maisel's superb Large Gold Medal collection. Lavishly illustrated in colour, this booklet relates the progression of Cayman Islands philately from the earliest use of the Jamaican stamps, through the development of first Queen Victoria keyplate designs up to the pictorial issues of the King George V period.

Images of items from his collection illuminate practically every page. This booklet is a must for Cayman Islands collectors, and anyone with even a passing interest in Cayman Islands philately cannot help but be impressed by this collection, a collection fully deserving of the title 'Classic Collection'. **PRICE: £12.00 (BWISC members' discount £2.00)**

This book will be available soon and can be ordered from David Druett of Pennymead Auctions at 1, Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, N. YORKS, HG5 8AZ, UK or via e-mail at Pennymead@aol. com, or via Telephone at 0044 (0)1423 865962 or Fax at 0044 (0)1423 547057. Please state that you are a member of the BWISC so as to obtain members discount. Also advise if airmail or surface mail is required for overseas orders. NOTE: Post & packing are extra. Orders will be dispatched with invoice and prompt payment is requested. Payment by Sterling cheque or US or Canadian dollar check can be accepted. Credit cards accepted (not AMEX). Also payment may be made in Euros (cash only).

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Revisions to contact details should be provided to the Hon. Secretary, Peter Boulton, address inside front cover.

In this issue and in future, membership updates will be issued as loose booklet style inserts for the membership booklet.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**IAN JAKES**

Library lists can be supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.

If any member has a book which is not already in the library and which is surplus to requirements, perhaps that member will consider donating it to the library.

EDITOR & WEB-MASTER'S REPORT**STEVE JARVIS**

Peter Fernbank has continued scanning early editions of the Bulletin. He has now reached edition 139, which are all now on our web site. Peter has also brought the Index of Bulletins up-to-date (Bulletin #202). An updated listing is now available for download from the web site or printed copy by application to the Hon. Editor at £2.00 or \$US4.00.

Please view Charles Freeland regular updates to his 'Auction Alert' article.

The proposed publication schedule for 2007 is as follows:

Edition	March	June	September	December
Distribute	Mon 19 Mar	Mon 18 June	Mon 10 Sept	Mon 10 Dec
From Printer	Fri 9 Mar	Fri 8 June	Fri 31 Aug	Fri 30 Nov
To Printer	Tue 20 Feb	Tue 29 May	Tue 21 Aug	Tue 20 Nov
Final Bulletin Revisions	Fri 16 Feb	Fri 25 May	Fri 17 Aug	Fri 16 Nov
Advert Final copy	Fri 9 Feb	Fri 18 May	Fri 10 Aug	Fri 9 Nov
Article copy deadline	Fri 26 Jan	Fri 4 May	Fri 27 July	Fri 26 Oct
Advert book space	Fri 19 Jan	Fri 27 Apr	Fri 20 July	Fri 19 Oct

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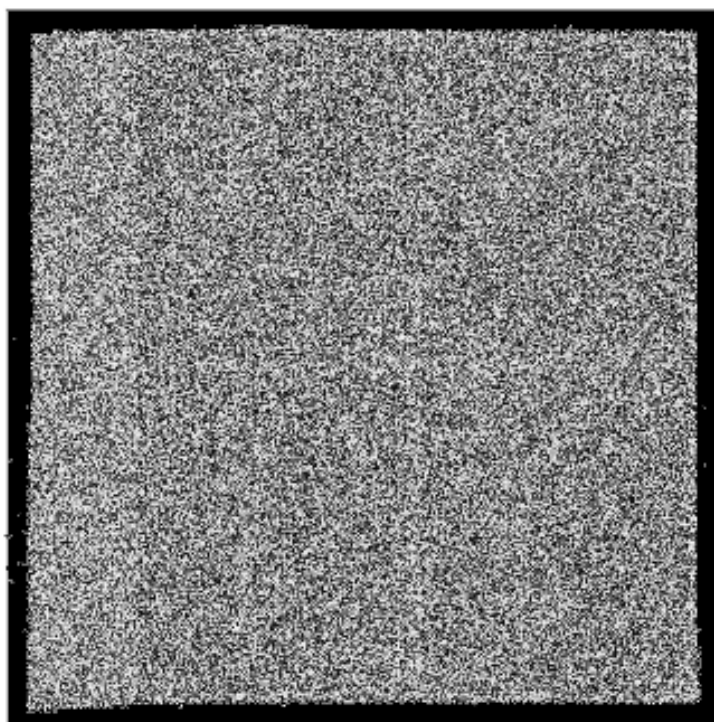
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